

2015 State of the County Address

Delivered by Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano on March 11, 2015

Good evening and welcome.

I would like to begin by thanking Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves, Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams and all of our County Legislators for hosting this State of the County Address. I also welcome our newest members of the Legislature, James Kennedy and Steve Rhoads. I appreciate the presence of my colleagues in government –Comptroller George Maragos, Clerk Maureen O’Connell, Acting District Attorney Madeline Singas, and members of our learned judiciary.

Thank you, to the Family Residences and Essential Enterprises Jazz Ensemble for entertaining guests tonight with your musical performance. Legislator Fran Becker, thank you for leading us in our National Anthem and thank you to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 82, for serving as honor guard this evening.

Will all our veterans please stand and be recognized!

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your service and dedication. Our residents are proud of you, and that’s why I, along with Connie Steers and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, declared Nassau a Purple Heart County, to recognize all those who shed their blood in the fight to protect freedom and democracy.

Before we begin, let us take a moment to mourn the loss of Inwood Fire Department Ex-Chief and Nassau County employee, Joseph J. Sanford, Jr. who died in the line of duty fighting a house fire in Woodmere. He exemplifies the danger our volunteer firefighters place themselves in to protect us.

Tonight, we are joined by Joseph’s wife Jackie, his daughter Janisha, brother Kyle and their family. Jackie, on behalf of our residents and all the men and women in the volunteer fire service, we thank you for sharing your husband with us. We will never forget his heroic sacrifice.

In addition, let us remember NYPD Detectives Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, both of whom were assassinated in cold blood in the line of duty.

Tonight we are joined by Detective Ramos’ wife Maritsa, and children Justin, Jayden and Cindy; as well as Detective Liu’s wife Sanny and his parents. On behalf of Nassau’s 1.3 million residents, we thank you for sharing your husbands with us, in helping to protect our region and way of life. No words can comfort your family for such a tragic loss; however, I want each of you to know how grateful we are for your husband’s bravery in serving as a police officer and we join in mourning your loss.

We will never forget their service, or the service of our fallen officers: Geoffrey Breitkopf, Michael Califano, Charles Cole, Arthur Lopez, Joseph Oliveri and all those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us stand tonight in solidarity with the brave men and women of law enforcement, the fire service and Armed Forces by taking a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives in the line of duty, those who were wounded and all those around the world who keep Nassau County, New York State and our nation safe.

I wish to take a moment to remember the legacy of former Nassau County Executive Francis Purcell, and welcome his family here tonight. Fran served as Nassau County Executive from 1978 to 1987.

Fran often called me from his home in Florida to offer kind words of support and advice. I will miss our conversations and his guidance. He led this great County with honor and commitment to its residents. Though we lost Fran, his legacy lives on at Mitchel Field, where he redeveloped a former Navy airbase into a business, sports and entertainment complex. In 2004, a portion of land was renamed the Francis T. Purcell Preserve at the Hempstead Plains.

We are joined tonight by Fran's daughter Diane, and their family. Let us all take a moment of silence in the memory of County Executive Francis Purcell.

Quality of life in Nassau is a cherished asset. It was when Fran Purcell was County Executive and is just as important today. I have been clear from day one that my vision was, and continues to be, to make Nassau an even better place to live, work and raise a family. Just as our parents struggled to provide a better life for us, my team and I are intent on providing a better County for the next generation.

I want our children, and our grandchildren, to desire to call Nassau their home. This takes hard work, reform and the ability to identify challenges and present bold solutions. In this regard, a challenge we face is convincing Millennials - young adults ages 20 to 35 – to call Nassau their home.

We are addressing this challenge by creating new transit-oriented housing, building attractive sports and entertainment destinations, fostering a strong economy that creates jobs, and providing a safe County with a financially secure government delivering efficient services. I'm proud to report we have made significant progress in each area, not by throwing money at the problem but rather by launching innovative out-of-the-box public-private partnerships and by involving citizens in advancing problem-solving solutions.

The foundation of our quality of life is safety. I made this a priority and I am proud to announce that crime is down by 25% in Nassau County since I took office. In fact, crime is at the lowest rate since statistics were first recorded.

I commend the brave, dedicated, and well-trained men and women of the Nassau County Police Department for their tireless efforts to combat crime. Special recognition goes to the Police Department's Criminal Intelligence Rapid Response Team, commanded by Lieutenant James Watson, for their success in making over one thousand arrests. These arrests have had a major impact on curtailing the use and sale of heroin and prescription narcotics.

Successfully reducing crime is directly attributable to our officers, intelligence-led policing models and strategic communication. Advancements in technology – made possible with the support of Legislators Dennis Dunne and Fran Becker - have also made it possible for police officers to receive and input valuable intelligence through the computers in their patrol vehicles, effectively turning these patrol vehicles into mobile police precincts.

The use of innovative technologies such as license plate readers and the ShotSpotter system – to detect and pinpoint locations of gunfire - has also contributed to decreases in crime. Additionally, our Gun Buyback program – in conjunction with the Office of the District Attorney - has taken nearly 3,500 illegal guns off our streets and helped reduce shootings by 24%.

Nassau is the safest large suburban county in America, and significantly safer than it was five years ago. I intend to keep it that way!

My administration, through a partnership with the Police Foundation – chaired by Eric Blumencranz – will construct a new, state-of-the-art Center for Training and Intelligence. With this step, we move police training from out-dated facilities to a modern venue that advances our nationally acclaimed intelligence-led policing models. Located on the grounds of Nassau Community College, the facility will create significant educational opportunities for our students and provide an opportunity to generate revenue for taxpayers by hosting national police conferences. The facility, scheduled to open in 2017, will largely be funded by asset forfeiture dollars, Foundation donations and Nassau’s capital plan.

Building on our efforts to keep Nassau families safe, my administration, working with Legislator Don MacKenzie, launched a free service known as Smart 911. Smart911 allows residents to register their cell phone numbers with the police and create a free safety profile for their household. Available at Smart911.com, your profile can provide 911 operators with names and photos of all family members, medical conditions, allergies, pets, and emergency contacts. I encourage residents to sign up today.

We have truly enhanced public safety in Nassau, while at the same time, consolidating police administration to save taxpayers millions of dollars. Tonight, I recognize these efforts by asking Police Commissioner Tom Krumpter and the officers joining him to stand and be recognized for their service and dedication to our residents.

Public safety is the foundation of our quality of life, and good-paying job opportunities are the foundation of keeping young adults in Nassau. After losing private sector jobs for more than 10 years, good middle-class jobs have begun to return.

We stand here today with a record that includes creating and retaining more than 20,000 jobs and employment opportunities. Special recognition goes to my Office of Economic Development and the Nassau IDA, which has many success stories, including winning Dealertrack Technologies’ headquarters for Nassau County. This \$112 million project will create 357 new jobs, retain 367 jobs, and provide a more than a \$3 billion boost to Nassau’s economy. Like many companies, Dealertrack was courted to move from Long Island by Texas, Utah, Florida, New Jersey and South Carolina.

We made sure Nassau County remains their home! Other job creation and retention success stories include Hain Celestial – who created 100 new jobs and moved their International Headquarters to Lake Success, rather than New Jersey, after being courted by Governor Christie. R-Best Produce – who relocated their jobs and corporate headquarters from the Bronx to Port Washington, along with plans to create new jobs. Display Technologies – who relocated their headquarters and jobs from Queens to Lake Success, with a promise to create additional jobs. New York Vanity – a Queens-based cabinet manufacturer, who moved its entire operation and jobs to Freeport. The list of accomplishments goes on-and-on.....from Jesco Lighting, to NY Community Bank, P&L Development, Aqua Enerviva, and Supreme Screw – a high-tech manufacturer from the Bronx who is moving dozens of jobs to Nassau and creating dozens more.

We are also growing Healthcare and Hi-Tech Jobs by providing assistance to entities like Winthrop University Hospital, who is building new lab space in Mineola. Last week, we welcomed Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, which will serve as a building block to attract healthcare related R & D to further grow Nassau County’s healthcare industry – our number one employer. In fact, I will soon be advancing legislation to locate Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on the Hub property. Sloan Kettering will bring 250 good-paying jobs, with an average salary of \$150,000 a year.

My team also assisted Andrew Hazen and Peter Goldsmith in the creation of a high technology business accelerator – known as LaunchPad - in downtown Great Neck Plaza and Mineola. This accelerator is bringing

young entrepreneurs from New York City to Nassau. Recently, one company at LaunchPad received \$800,000 in venture funding and the successes don't stop there. Next month, Andrew and Peter will join me in launching Nassau's Tech Task Team. Together, with other leaders in the industry, we will make our region more attractive to creative young minds that can power an innovative economy.

Innovation is what has allowed us to succeed at the former Grumman property in Bethpage and Hicksville. Once a single employer venue dependent on defense contracts, it is now 600 acres of diverse businesses. It includes a state-of-the-art Homeland Security Center, housing opportunities and Nassau's newest industry - film and television production. With more than \$250 million in annual economic benefit to Nassau, residents are finding job opportunities in our growing film industry. Nassau County – with the support of elected officials like Legislators Richard Nicoletto, Denise Ford, Rose Walker and Laura Schaefer - is well on its way to establishing itself as the Hollywood East of the movie and television industry.

While we have successfully replaced the defense industry at the former Grumman property, I remain committed to fighting for strong environmental cleanup requirements. I joined with Assemblyman Joseph Saladino in advocating for cleanup legislation and I support Senator Schumer in calling on the U.S. Navy to fund a comprehensive cleanup of our water supply and soil vapors. Our County resources are committed to continuing our fight for a comprehensive cleanup plan. Until then, let us commend our local water districts that make certain we do not drink nor come in contact with contaminated water. Let me further recognize State Senator Jack Martins, who I joined with to further protect our drinking water from the threat of future contamination.

For the first time in more than a decade, government is working for the people by attracting jobs, and our success is evident. Nassau continues to lead the region with the lowest unemployment rate, at 4.1%, down from more than 5% a year ago, and down from 7% in 2010 when I took office. This success is attributed to our aggressive economic development plan, in partnership with the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, that focused on job generation and job retention, as well as efficient and cost effective government. Now you can do your part to continue to strengthen our economy by making a greater effort to Shop Local.

A pillar of our economic success is found in increasing affordable housing opportunities for our young workforce. The fact is, today's starter home for many young families is actually an affordable apartment. To assist young families and meet employers-need for a skilled and educated workforce, my administration, with the assistance of Legislator Richard Nicoletto and Vision Long Island, partnered with the private sector.

More than 3,500 new apartments have opened or are under construction in the County, with more than 1,000 units being constructed through our initiative to convert vacant office space into apartments near transit centers. While many talk about transit-oriented development, you can view our success in Hempstead, Great Neck Plaza, Farmingdale, Mineola, Roslyn and Westbury. To continue this successful program, my administration, with the assistance of Legislators Fran Becker and Vincent Muscarella, earmarked Federal funds to study transit-oriented centers. Accordingly, we partnered with Valley Stream Village Mayor Ed Fare to identify an area for nearly 300 new residential condos or rentals, thereby providing much-needed housing near businesses along Rockaway Avenue. In Lynbrook, we worked with Village Mayor Bill Hendrick to recommend a zoning overlay district to attract additional cultural and entertainment uses, including housing. Pivoting off of this study, we are also working to bring about desired improvements to walkability, accessibility and safety, with the overarching goal of economic development in Baldwin. Baldwin is also where my administration is working with Legislator Laura Curran to replace the dilapidated 1st Precinct with a new storm-resistant, state-of-the-art facility.

Our housing initiative not only assists young families, it revitalizes downtowns by eliminating community blight and increasing economic activity. That said, holding property taxes down keeps properties affordable and helps young families transition from apartments to the American Dream of homeownership.

While neighboring municipalities increased property taxes by nearly 10% since 2010, I froze County property taxes for 5 straight years. This year, is the 6th straight year in which households earning under \$500,000 annually will not pay a net dime more than they did in 2010. This is accomplished by participating in Governor Cuomo's Property Tax Freeze Credit Program, which rewards counties like ours that stay within the tax cap with dollar-for-dollar reimbursement checks to residents. Combined with the elimination of Nassau's Home Energy Tax and a 20% reduction in the size of government, more money is in your wallet rather than the pocket of government.

Nassau County used to spend too much, tax too high and reform too little. In fact, when I took office in 2010, my administration faced a \$378 million deficit.

With the cooperation of NIFA, and its Chairman Jon Kaiman, we made great progress. Based on NIFA's new stricter accounting standards, we have improved Nassau's finances by 60%, reduced recurring expenses and increased recurring revenue through contract concessions and smart public-private partnerships. Staying on this path will insure Nassau fixes decades of poor policies while not punishing present day taxpayers with large tax increases. Clearly, by working together with Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority Leader Abrahams, the entire Legislature and NIFA, we are on the road to being the most financially secure County in the region. We have cut \$330 million in wasteful spending, implemented efficiencies, consolidated departments, reinvented the way government operates, reformed the Assessment System and reduced the size of government by 20%.

Working with the Legislature and NIFA, we negotiated labor concessions that save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by requiring new employee contributions to healthcare and pension costs while reforming work rules. We brought significant improvements to Nassau and protected our residents' wallets by implementing public-private partnerships. By working together with NIFA and in a bi-partisan manner, we doubled Nassau's reserves to \$120 million and reduced the cost of government by more than any other municipality.

We have a fiscal management team in place to quickly respond to the rhythm of our economy. For example, we are closely monitoring the abnormal fluctuations in sales tax receipts and adjusting our budget to account for same. Working with Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority Leader Abrahams and legislators, we have set a path to address decades of Nassau's past certiorari debt. This renewed bi-partisan cooperation saves taxpayer dollars and will benefit future generations.

Bi-partisan cooperation allowed us to preserve public transportation, which is essential for our economy. In order to advance efficiencies and provide reliable service for commuters, we launched a successful public-private partnership which saves taxpayers \$30 million a year.

Efficiencies were also made at the County jail, where Sheriff Michael Sposato produced an annual saving of \$7 million by bringing private health care professionals into the jail to provide health care onsite - thereby eliminating the costly expense of correction officers accompanying convicts to local hospitals and clinics for treatment.

In fact, Nassau leads the nation in public-private partnerships. Our largest public-private partnership is the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where, with the support and leadership of Presiding Officer Gonsalves,

Minority Leader Abrahams and the County Legislature, construction will begin later this year to turn the outdated arena into a world-class sports-entertainment destination.

The new Coliseum will retain its history of honoring our veterans while sharing revenue with County taxpayers, employ 2,700 people and provide \$10 billion in economic benefit to Nassau. When complete, the Coliseum will host several New York Islanders games, Brooklyn Nets games, New York Yankee Coaching Clinics, Children Shows, Heavyweight Boxing championship tournaments, Minor League Hockey and College Basketball games as well as an exciting array of Star-Studded Performers and Family-Fun entertainment.

The transformed Coliseum is only the beginning! After completion, Plaza development will take place to construct a performing arts theatre, movie theatre, bowling alley and theme restaurants. I am certain this world-class destination will get the attention of the NHL.

While I was disappointed when taxpayers voted no to building an arena to keep our only professional sports team, we have an opportunity to keep their roots in Nassau. Tonight, I announce we are close to finalizing plans, that I will forward to the Legislature, for a new historic public-private partnership with the Islanders to construct a state-of-the-art corporate office and practice facility in Nassau County. This facility will cement the Islanders in Nassau and provide hope, that we will witness their full-time return when they see the magnificent new Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. This project will also create a sports-entertainment destination that will further provide a venue for our young adults. Studies have shown that today's youth seek such destinations when choosing where to reside; and Nassau's destinations will be second to none.

Friends, I address you tonight, just blocks away from the Coliseum, at Nassau's new Indoor Ice Rinks. Another public-private partnership, this center accommodates our residents, skating professionals and increases tourism while providing youth athletes with state-of-the-art facilities. In fact, this center is currently the training facility for Team USA figure skater Samantha Cesario of Oceanside. I want to pause tonight to thank Ron Friedman, operator of this facility, for hosting tonight's State of the County Address and for his partnership with the County.

Friends, other public-private partnerships, just blocks away from the Coliseum and this rink, include a new collegiate baseball field funded by Molloy College and the New York Cosmo's Practice Field funded by the team. Both facilities, located at Mitchel Field, were 100% privately-funded and benefit our residents who utilize the sports complex. I want to thank Molloy College and the Cosmos for their partnership with our County.

Another public-private partnership, largely, privately-funded by philanthropist Lawrence Kadish, is the Museum of American Armor at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. This successful partnership brings new excitement to Old Bethpage, generates revenue and creates a permanent living classroom for a new generation of Americans to appreciate the battlefield sacrifices made on their behalf. Mr. Kadish, I salute you for your investment in our County and for your commitment to keeping the memories of our Americans Heroes alive.

Again, these public-private partnerships replace taxpayer costs with private sector investment and taxpayer revenue sharing. In the past, your tax dollars paid for construction, your tax dollars paid for costly maintenance, your tax dollars paid for costly utilities and this approach represented only costs to taxpayers. Our new approach requires private sector dollars to construct these facilities, maintain the facilities, pay the utility bills and share revenue with Nassau County. Indeed, our model replaces reoccurring expenses with reoccurring revenue, while providing public access to state-of-the-art facilities.

My administrations' determination to save taxpayer dollars through public-private partnerships is working. In fact, the most recent public-private partnership was entered into this year to better safeguard our environment, strengthen our quality of life, save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and improve the management and operation of our three wastewater treatment facilities. This partnership was formed to dramatically improve the County's ability to protect our environment and the health and well-being of our residents. Together with United Water, we are implementing unprecedented advances in environmental protection, odor control, management efficiencies, plant aesthetics and public information. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's commitment of \$150 million for Bay Park, we will construct a nitrogen removal system to protect our marshlands and clean up the Western Bays. From nitrogen removal to establishing a new public park, to improving our ability to recover from future storms; we have the means of making these plants more environmentally-friendly, more efficient and better stewards of our environment. That said; we are not yet done!

Legislators Denise Ford and Howard Kopel continue to work with my administration to secure funds for an Ocean Outfall Pipe. With the assistance of Governor Cuomo, State Senator Skelos, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressional Representatives King and Rice - as well as organizations such as Vision Long Island, Operation SPLASH, Citizens Campaign for the Environment - we will continue to press FEMA for the dollars needed to build an Ocean Outfall Pipe to protect our waterways and marshlands. This benefits not only those residing in East Rockaway and Bay Park, but all residents and future generations as well as recreational boating and commercial fishing. It is initiatives such as this that are improving our quality of life.

That too can be said for the many environmentally-friendly initiatives my administration has tackled, such as stopping the pollution of Zach's Bay, converting traffic lights and lighting fixtures to LED...using green-construction at the Public Safety Center and producing solar energy at Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. In fact, the County and NICE Bus were recognized for reducing our Carbon footprint through the green purchasing of natural gas.

I am also proud that my administration has earned recognition for much of its outstanding work.

We received a Regional Leadership Award from Vision Long Island for safer roadways, greenways, new transit-oriented housing and environmental protection. This past year, I was honored to receive the Environmental Equinox Award for Outstanding Commitment for the Protection and Restoration of the Western Bays from Citizens Campaign for the Environment. Our Health Department, led by Dr. Larry Eisenstein, was nationally recognized for Excellence in Public Health by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Our Police Department received worldwide recognition by being awarded the 2014 Community Policing Award for efforts in fighting the heroin epidemic that plagues our nation.

I am very proud of my team and all those who volunteer in my administration. Our successes are well-documented and provide the confidence that we will address today's challenges.

A major challenge is that of heroin addiction. Too many young people are dying from drug overdoses. While many thought the days of heroin addicts ended in the 70s' with the deaths of rock stars like Jim Morrison, it continues today with the death of not only Academy-award winning actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman, but the children who live in our neighborhoods and who attend our local schools. Statistics indicate that 51 people died of heroin overdoses in 2014 and another 123 people died of prescription drug overdoses.

My administration has combated heroin and opioid abuse through a comprehensive strategy of enforcement, education, awareness and treatment. In continuing the war on prescription drug abuse and the heroin epidemic, we provide drug abuse prevention initiatives in schools, and strong police enforcement on our streets. Recently, State Senators Jack Martins and Kemp Hannon assisted our efforts by providing additional funding for

investigations of fatal heroin and opioid overdoses – with the goal of stopping the supply. Through a Federal-State and local law enforcement initiative, former District Attorney Rice and I announced in December the dismantling of a multi-million dollar illegal drug pipeline which ran directly from Mexico to New York City and Long Island. While these drug dealers may no longer kill our children, others are out there and we will continue our efforts to take them down.

To give families a chance at recovery, we launched free Narcan training to reverse an overdose. In fact, we have trained 3,500 citizens to administer Narcan. Moreover, with the support of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, police officers and AMT's are now equipped with Narcan to help save lives. In October, my administration partnered with the Long Island Crisis Center, to launch a new 24 hour a day, seven day a week Mental Health Substance Abuse Helpline.

To treat our kids and neighbors that get hooked on drugs, my administration created a model program called 'A Shot at Life'. I thank my wife Linda for her persistence and dedication in launching this program, in which addiction specialists screen candidates to whom they administer a non-narcotic medication, which has promising addiction-kicking results. Unlike other medications long-used to treat Opiate addiction, this is a once-a-month, extended-release injection that cannot be abused, is non-addictive, and caps brain receptors from the cravings of Opiates. Will Human Services Commissioner Lisa Murphy, Mental Health Director Dr. James Dolan, my wife Linda and all of my staff that worked on this program, please stand to be recognized.

Will Nassau County AMT's also stand and be recognized for the countless number of lives you have saved.

Governor Cuomo bolstered our efforts by allocating \$300,000 in funding to Nassau for withdrawal services, which will greatly help residents who struggle with addiction in their efforts to detoxify from Opiates and get 'A Shot a Life.'

While advancements in medicine are helping us address many quality of life issues, advancements in technology are allowing us to keep residents informed. In Nassau, it's not all about Facebook and Twitter, but rather about apps we develop for our citizens. I encourage you to download the Nassau County Crime Stoppers free app, which helps catch those wanted for crimes against our community. Nassau Works, a free mobile and online app, which connects job seekers with thousands of local employment opportunities through the convenience of their phone or laptop via social media forums. Nassau Now, a free mobile and online application, which connects residents and government. From reporting potholes to issuing important public safety alerts, Nassau Now connects us. In 2014, it helped address the concerns of 56 hundred residents.

Other technology is in use at our Department of Public Works, where snow plows can now be tracked with GPS on an electronic map, so that supervisors know where they are and whether their plow is down and salter on. This system helps us efficiently manage our resources and assists the men and women of our Department of Public Works to meet weather challenges, including January's Blizzard Juno. I ask Commissioner Shila Shah, and the best snow operators a County Executive could ask for, to please stand and be recognized.

I would also like to recognize our Office of Emergency Management for their superior response to the blizzard, as well as Hurricane Sandy. Commissioner Craft and OEM staff, please stand and be recognized.

Friends, I credit all of our success to the employees who perform their work each and every day. My administration has truly engaged a diverse group of residents to lead Nassau and enhance our quality of life. Diversity and opportunity for every American is found in our government where we empower managers that reflect the melting pot we live in today. I am proud of the work Nassau's employees are performing to make certain all residents have a strong voice in our administration.

I commend Deputy County Executive Eric Naughton who leads our Office of Management and Budget and helps me protect your wallet. Deputy County Executive Philip Elliot who leads the Office of Minority Affairs in certifying women-owned and minority-owned businesses. In September, we will host Long Island's largest M/WBE procurement conference. Eldia Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Coordinating Agency for Spanish Americans, for launching successful language and small business programs that benefit our entire region. County Attorney, Carnell Foskey, for working to protect your tax dollars. Beaumont Jefferson, our County Treasurer, and Jim Davis, our County Assessor, for working diligently to deliver tax refunds to victims of Hurricane Sandy. Social Service Commissioner John Imhof, for cracking down on welfare fraud and saving more than \$50 million. And, Tim Williams, our Chairman of the IDA, for working to bring new companies and jobs to our great County.

Yes folks; my administration indeed has the MOST diverse management team in the history of Nassau County.

I am equally proud of our residents who stepped up to lead important committees. The Nassau Nonprofit Task Force, led by Darren Sandow and championed by Amy Haggdorn of the Haggdorn Foundation, for creating a collaborative effort between government and not-for-profit agencies to streamline bureaucracy, cut red-tape, and ensure the continuation of critical programs for our families and youth. The Task Force on Family Violence, comprised of dedicated individuals who developed an awareness campaign to reduce instances of domestic violence. I want to applaud them for the great work they do! The Prescription Drug Task Force, which is comprised of a panel of experts that developed an awareness, education, enforcement and counseling program. My Business Advisory Council, chaired by Bert Brodsky, which provides advice and guidance to advance our economy and create jobs. The Nassau County Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club, led by Brian Fried, which supports innovative products seeking to go beyond the development phase. The Asian American Economic Advisory Commission, chaired by Michael Limb, which works to attract new businesses to Nassau.

I also want to recognize some Nassau community pride. The members of the Nassau Community College Football Team, led by Head Coach Joe Osovet, achieved an undefeated record during the regular season and their victory in Arizona. Congratulations Lions! We're proud of you. Coach, please stand and be recognized.

There is so much to be proud of, and much to look forward to. We have an exciting vision for Nassau, which is fast becoming a reality. Our County is on a wonderful path. A path that continues to provide for financial stability. A path that continues to create more jobs and housing opportunities for youth. A path that allows seniors to retire in the communities they built. A path that continues to provide an affordable government for taxpayers. A path that continues to honor our hometown heroes by ensuring no veteran goes homeless, and that all veterans receive the benefits they've earned. A path that maintains our safety and continues to welcome all citizens who wish to call Nassau their home.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your County Executive, for a County I love. May God Bless you and these United States of America.

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